



BUNYORO POST

District Communicators'
Newsletter

Date 18th February 2026

Weekly Edition

VOL. 11



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Ndagano Faridah

Editor's Note

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Welcome to the 11th edition of the Bunyoro Post Magazine.

In this issue, we bring you a collection of uplifting and impactful stories that continue to shape the narrative of our beloved region. We begin with a major milestone: the Government's approval of UGX 30 billion as compensation for Bunyoro Kingdom land, a development that marks an important step toward justice, restoration, and strengthened relations.

We also highlight the recent visit by a CAF delegation to the Hoima City Stadium, a sign of growing opportunities for sports development and the region's rising profile on the national and continental stage.

This edition further takes you inside the dramatic and closely contested Female

National Youth MP elections held in Hoima, capturing the energy, aspirations, and democratic spirit of our youth. Additionally, we bring updates on the ongoing progress toward establishing Bunyoro University, a transformative project that promises to redefine education and innovation in the region.

As always, the Bunyoro Post remains committed to telling the stories that matter — stories of resilience, growth, culture, and community.

We warmly invite readers, writers, researchers, and community members to contribute to future editions. Whether you have a story, opinion, historical insight, or creative piece to share, your voice is welcome. Together, we continue to document and celebrate the journey of Bunyoro.

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

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Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, let's continue to chronicle the rise of Bunyoro

Gov't Approves UGX 30 Bn Compensation for Bunyoro Kingdom Land

By Bunyoro Post Editor, Communications Officer - Kikuube



The Ugandan government has agreed to compensate the Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom with UGX 30 billion for eight square miles of land in Kakumiro Town Council.

The announcement, made by Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja during recent celebrations for the newly elected Kakumiro mayor Fred Mwesigwa, promises land titles for current residents, who have lived as squatters without formal ownership.

The compensation addresses claims by the kingdom over the territory, ensuring no evictions and paving the way for regional development. Nabbanja emphasized that the deal allows the government to issue titles to sitting tenants, which promotes stability in the area.

This resolution stems from colonial-era injustices that reshaped Uganda's kingdoms. In the late 19th century, British colonial forces under Colonel Henry Colvile waged war on Bunyoro, annexing vast territories as punishment for resistance. By 1894, parts of Bunyoro were redistributed: some to the Kingdom of Toro, others to Buganda, and portions to what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The annexed areas, dubbed the "lost counties"—including Buyaga, Bugangaizi, Bugerere, Buruli, Buwekula, and northern Singo—were granted to Buganda as a reward for alliance with the British. These fertile lands, vital for agriculture and livestock, fueled resentment in Bunyoro, which viewed Buganda as a "child" kingdom undeserving of parental rule.

Post-independence, a 1964 referendum under President Milton Obote returned Buyaga and Bugangaizi (now part of Kakumiro and surrounding districts) to Bunyoro, but lingering ownership disputes persisted. Kakumiro Town Council's land, part of these reclaimed counties, remained contested, with residents lacking titles amid kingdom claims.

Kingdom officials welcomed the payout, seeing it as a step toward reconciliation. The funds are expected to support Bunyoro's development initiatives, while secure land tenure for locals could boost investment in the oil-rich region. This agreement marks a significant effort to heal colonial wounds, promoting peace in Uganda's traditional kingdoms.

CAF Team Inspects Hoima City Stadium in AFCON 2027 Preparations

By Bunyoro Post Editor



CAF inspection team visits Hoima City Stadium in preparation for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON)

A technical delegation from the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has completed inspections at Hoima City Stadium, Mandela National Stadium and several training facilities in Kampala, marking a key step in Uganda's preparations for co-hosting

the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) alongside Kenya and Tanzania.

The visit, part of the "Pamoja" joint bid, focused on assessing infrastructure readiness for the tournament. The team evaluated Mandela National Stadium, as well as training sites at FUFA Kadiba

Stadium, Kyambogo University, and Makerere University. These evaluations ensure compliance with CAF's world-class standards for pitch quality, safety, security, and overall facilities.

The inspections began earlier this week and are set to conclude soon. This multi-country tour also includes sites in Kenya, such as Kasarani and Nyayo Stadiums, and in Tanzania, including Benjamin Mkapa and Lake Tanganyika Stadiums.

CAF's efforts come amid rumors of a potential postponement to 2028, though officials have dismissed these

concerns, emphasizing ongoing collaboration with host governments to intensify preparations. The 2027 AFCON, the 36th edition, is slated for June 19 to July 18, promising to elevate the tournament's global profile.

Ugandan football authorities expressed optimism about the inspections, highlighting recent upgrades to venues like Hoima City Stadium, which was inaugurated last year. As East Africa gears up for its first joint hosting, these evaluations underscore the region's commitment to delivering a successful event.



Bunyoro University Taskforce Seeks UGX 100bn to Kick-Start Construction

By Bunyoro Post Editor

Bunyoro University's taskforce has asked the government to allocate Shs100 billion in the 2026/2027 national budget to kick-start construction of the long-awaited public university. The appeal was made during a stakeholders' meeting in Hoima attended by Members of Parliament, district leaders and security officials

from across the Bunyoro sub-region.

Professor Samuel Kyamanywa, Chairperson of the taskforce and Vice Chancellor of Bunyoro University, said the requested funds form part of the Shs365 billion needed for the institution's full establishment. He noted that 95 percent of the Shs100 billion would be dedicated to construction works, while



MPs, members of the task force and local government leaders pose for a photo after a meeting at Kabalega Resort Hotel in Hoima on Friday

the remaining five percent would cover administrative expenses.

The university currently has Shs14 billion allocated in the ongoing financial year, of which Shs12 billion will be used to build the foundation for the main campus structures. Construction on the foundations is scheduled to begin in April. According to Prof Kyamanywa, the taskforce is prepared to begin full structural works as soon as additional funding becomes available, with at least four buildings planned for the main campus in Buhimba Town Council, Kikuube District.

He urged MPs from the region to champion the push for the Shs100 billion allocation, noting that the university will eventually house five key schools. The first phase will prioritise the School of Computing and Information Science and the School of Science Education.

John Ochira Pakony, Assistant Commissioner for University Education and Training at the Ministry of

Education and Sports, said the ministry is considering the UPDF Engineering Brigade or the National Enterprise Corporation as potential contractors.

Jacob Karubanga Ateenyi, MP for Kibanda South County and Chairperson of the Bunyoro Parliamentary Caucus, said the university is expected to operate three constituent colleges focusing on health, agriculture and sciences. Other leaders, including MPs Stephen Aseera and Pius Wakabi Rujumba, called for unity, warning that internal disagreements have previously slowed progress.

Kikuube District RDC Godwin Angalia urged faster action, while LC5 Chairperson Peter Banura emphasised the need to protect the environment during construction. District leaders pledged continued community engagement, saying the university remains vital to expanding higher education and driving socio-economic development in the Bunyoro sub-region.

Hoima City Youth Leaders Set 5-Point Agenda after Swearing-In

By Hannington Tibaijuka, Communication Officer- Buliisa

Hoima City's newly sworn-in Youth Council Chairperson, Richard Tumwesige, has outlined a five-point priority agenda anchored in transparency, accountability, and broader youth inclusion in city development programs.

Tumwesige unveiled his plan on Monday shortly after taking the oath of office at Hoima City headquarters in a ceremony presided over by City Mayor Brian Kaboyo. He pledged to build a cooperative working relationship with city leaders, saying collaboration will be central to delivering meaningful change for young people.

"We represent the young people. We are open to learning; guide us so we can do well and become better leaders

of tomorrow," he said, emphasizing unity and constructive engagement with city authorities.

At the core of his agenda is a push for greater youth participation in city programs and enhanced access to services, including university scholarships, loan schemes, and other empowerment initiatives. Tumwesige noted that many young people lack adequate information about their rights and available opportunities, a gap he hopes to close through targeted civic education.

He promised strict oversight of funds allocated to youth programs, insisting that transparency will define his tenure.

"The major problem is always



The new Hoima City Youth Council Chairperson Richard Tumwesige (L) shortly after swearing in

accountability and transparency. I have a name to protect. Where they give me money for the youth, it will get to them. I will follow up to ensure what belongs to the youth indeed gets to them," he said.

Outgoing Youth Council Chairperson Sylvia Kaahwa, who served five years in office, urged the new leadership to prioritize unity and maintain long-term integrity.

"When you are focused on a great future, you will keep on track. Know your roles and execute them with honesty," she advised.

Tumwesige will be deputized by Brian Atugonza, who also represents persons with disabilities. Other executive members include Agnes Birungi (Secretary for Publicity), Collins Alinda (Secretary for Finance), Gloria Namakula (Secretary for Women Affairs), and Talent Akampulira (General Secretary).

Mayor Kaboyo encouraged the new council to model themselves after exemplary leaders across the country, emphasizing mentorship and discipline. He cautioned them against confrontational leadership, urging instead a collaborative approach with both technical and political authorities.

"If you take the path of good working relations with leaders, life will be easy and you will always be brought on board to contribute. But if you come as a fighter, they will sideline you and fail you in your work," Kaboyo warned.

Tumwesige's term begins at a time when youth unemployment, limited access to economic opportunities, and concerns over resource accountability remain pressing issues in Hoima City. His pledge to prioritize transparency and youth empowerment sets a decisive tone for the new council's tenure.

Masindi Stakeholders Equipped with Early Conflict Detection Abilities

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer- Masindi



Participants pose for a group photo after the two day training on conflict detection and prevention

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, through its Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit (CEWERU), recently concluded a two-day training program in Masindi District. The workshop equipped key stakeholders with vital skills in conflict detection, prevention, and response.

Held at the Lado Hotel in Masindi Town, the training brought together a diverse group of participants, including district leaders, security officials, and technical staff. The goal was to empower these individuals to identify the subtle early warning signs of potential conflicts and take swift, preventative action.

Joseph Muhumuza, a conflict analyst with CEWERU, led the sessions, highlighting critical indicators that can signal brewing tensions. These included shifts in body language and behavior, the formation of exclusive groups, the use of inflammatory language, and recurring patterns of negative behavior that could escalate into open confrontation.

Muhumuza also pinpointed the root causes of many conflicts, emphasizing the impact of misinformation, damaged relationships fueled by strong emotions, unequal distribution of power and resources, lawlessness, and unchecked greed.

“Effective early warning hinges on a systematic approach to data collection, rigorous analysis, and the prompt dissemination of information to the appropriate authorities and institutions,” Muhumuza explained. He stressed the crucial role of mediation in preventing conflict escalation, but cautioned that

mediators must possess unwavering integrity, trustworthiness, competence, and a deep understanding of the underlying issues.

Ben Turyahumura, the National Head of CEWERU, shared the unit’s history and expansion. Initially focused on the Karamoja region due to persistent challenges like cattle rustling, CEWERU has broadened its scope to encompass a wider range of regions and districts across Uganda.

“We have been operational for over 20 years, working in approximately 60 districts to conduct consultations and identify local challenges,” Turyahumura stated. He further elaborated that the unit’s reports to the supervising ministry focus on five key areas: governance-related conflicts, economic disputes, environmental conflicts, social tensions, and security-related crimes, including murder and aggravated robbery.

Musa Kyamiza, the Principal Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Masindi, urged participants to translate their newly acquired knowledge into practical action. He challenged them to actively participate in mitigating conflicts within their communities, fostering a more peaceful and stable environment for all.

The training marks a substantial investment in building local capacity, empowering Masindi stakeholders to effectively address potential conflicts before they arise, thereby enhancing community resilience and promoting a more harmonious society.

Renewed Efforts to Protect Bugoma Forest: Boundary Demarcation Initiated

By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer – Kikuube



Leaders and stakeholders convene in Kikuube District to address issues surrounding the Bugoma Forest boundary demarcation (2)

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) commenced the boundary opening of Bugoma Central Forest Reserve today, following a high-level stakeholder meeting earlier this week.

The exercise aims to clearly demarcate the reserve's limits, curb ongoing encroachments, and restore degraded areas, amid growing concerns over deforestation in the oil-rich Albertine Rift region. The process kicked off after a recent meeting in Kikuube District, where leaders, stakeholders, and NFA officials gathered to finalize plans.

Minister of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development Judith Nabakooba directed the NFA to procure and install boundary pillars within a week, emphasizing the need to prevent further intrusions that have plagued the area

since previous demarcation attempts.

Bugoma Forest, spanning approximately 41,000 hectares, is a biodiversity hotspot home to endangered chimpanzees, rare bird species, and vital carbon sinks essential for combating climate change.

However, it has faced relentless pressure from agricultural expansion, particularly sugarcane plantations by companies like Hoima Sugar Limited, which was allocated 22 square miles of adjacent land.

Encroachers, including maize and cane growers, have reportedly invaded an additional 158.8 square miles of the reserve.

This is not the first attempt to secure Bugoma's boundaries. A 2023 survey



identified 21 claimants occupying about 36% of the gazetted forest area, but the exercise stalled due to irregularities and lack of follow-through on pillar installation.

Earlier efforts in 2022 and 2024 were similarly halted amid protests and allegations of improper land allocations.

In 2023, the government suspended all activities in the forest, including those by the Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, which had leased land to Hoima Sugar for 99 years.

A 2019 Cabinet order to reopen the boundaries also failed to yield lasting results.

State Minister for Public Service Grace Mary Mugasa, who joined the recent engagement, pointed out the forest's historical protection since 1932 and its role in national environmental security.

"We must restore order, halt further

encroachment, and safeguard this national asset for future generations," she stated in a post following the meeting.

Kikuube District LCV Chairman Peter Banura Araali echoed these sentiments, noting the involvement of security teams and the completion of the 2023 survey as key to the current push.

As the boundary opening proceeds, experts warn that success hinges on enforcement and community involvement. The Albertine region's oil discoveries have intensified land pressures, making Bugoma's preservation a test case for balancing economic development with environmental stewardship.

Hoima Court Dismisses Recount Petition in Female Youth MP Race Over Ballot Tampering

By Bunyoro Post Editor



Mercy Kanyesigye, who was declared as the eventual winner for the National Female Youth MP

The Hoima Chief Magistrate's Court has dismissed a vote recount petition filed by National Resistance Movement (NRM) candidate Diana Kampe Ampaire, upholding independent candidate Mercy Kanyesigye's victory in the National Female Youth Member of Parliament election. The ruling, delivered by Magistrate George Kunihira, cited evidence of ballot material tampering, effectively ending the closely contested race.

The incident stems from the February 6, 2026, election held at Hoima City Stadium, where Kanyesigye secured 216 votes against Ampaire's 198, Julia

Muhumuza's 24, and Edith Namande's 1.

Dissatisfied with the narrow 18-vote margin, Ampaire filed Miscellaneous Cause No. 06 of 2026, alleging irregularities in vote tallying and misallocation of ballots in her favor.

Court proceedings began with a hearing on February 13, leading to an initial order for a recount on February 17.

However, during the examination of ballot boxes, the court discovered tampering, including missing or mismatched seal serial numbers on the materials. Kunihira ruled that this compromised the integrity of the recount process, prompting the dismissal of Ampaire's petition on February 17 evening.

The ruling solidifies Kanyesigye's position as the duly elected National Female Youth MP, allowing her to represent youth interests in Parliament without further legal hurdles. It also underscores ongoing concerns about electoral integrity in Uganda, with youth leaders praising the decision as a win for democracy amid calls to dismiss the challenge.

Ampaire has not indicated plans to appeal, but the case highlights tensions in post-election disputes. Courtroom images show Magistrate Kunihira addressing a packed session with lawyers, police, and media, a ballot box prominently displayed on the bench. This outcome may set precedents for handling similar tampering allegations in future polls.

Buliisa District Stages Comeback in National Service Delivery Rankings

By Hannington Tibajuka, Communication Officer- Buliisa



Chief Administrative Officer Buliisa
Prof. Dr. Levi Musinguzi Bahemuka.



RDC Buliisa Mr Bahebwa Longino
Byagagaire.

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NPA Steps In to Help Kiryandongo Fast-Track Fourth District Development Plan

By Emmanuel Murungi, Communication Officer, Kiryandongo District



Swaliq Isabirye, a Regional Planner at the National Planning Authority, engaging with Kiryandongo District department heads during the training session.

The National Planning Authority (NPA) has stepped in to support Kiryandongo District Local Government in finalizing its Fourth District Development Plan (DDP IV), a move expected to help the district secure its long-delayed Certificate of Compliance.

The intervention comes after the District Planner alerted Kiryandongo's leadership that the district had never received a Certificate of Compliance—an essential requirement confirming that its development plan meets national standards and aligns with Uganda's broader development agenda. The planner also outlined several gaps in the draft DDP IV that had stalled the certification process and recommended seeking technical backstopping from NPA.

According to Resident District Commissioner Anselm Kyaligonza, the district leadership took action immediately after learning of the gaps.

"When the planner highlighted the outstanding issues, we reached out to NPA for technical guidance to ensure the document meets national planning standards," Kyaligonza said.

He called on all Heads of Departments to fully participate in the two-day technical working session with NPA, stressing that the exercise was crucial to completing the outstanding revisions.

"I urge all heads of departments to focus on refining their programme areas and work closely with the NPA team so that we can finalize the adjustments and secure the Certificate of Compliance," he added.

NPA's Regional Planner, Swalij Isabirye, confirmed that the draft previously submitted by the district contained

several gaps that needed to be addressed before certification.

"The draft submitted to NPA had gaps that required correction. Our role has been to guide the district on how to close those gaps," Isabirye said.

He noted that while the Authority had earlier provided technical feedback, some Heads of Departments expressed the need for additional support, particularly in aligning sector priorities, performance indicators, and budgets with national planning requirements.

Isabirye emphasized that the backstopping mission also aimed at validating data directly with departmental heads to ensure accuracy and ownership of the final plan.

"NPA has supported the district, but it is important to validate information with the heads of departments to ensure the data and projections reflect realities on the ground," he noted.

A Certificate of Compliance is a key milestone for any district, confirming that local development priorities are in harmony with national development frameworks and enabling districts to legally implement their approved programmes.

Once finalized and certified, Kiryandongo's Fourth District Development Plan will serve as the district's blueprint for development priorities, budgeting, and service delivery over the next planning cycle—boosting efforts toward socio-economic transformation.

Kikuube District Officials Trained on Social Protection Budgeting and Revenue Mobilization

By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer – Kikuube



District officials pose for a photo moment at the meeting

Kikuube District technical officers have completed a three-day training aimed at improving social protection budgeting and strengthening revenue mobilization, as part of a broader national effort to support vulnerable adolescent parents. The workshop, held from February 11 to 13 in Fort Portal City, was organized by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) with support from UNICEF and funding from Iceland.

The training comes under an ongoing government-UNICEF partnership that provides mentorship and quarterly cash transfers to adolescent single mothers aged 18 and below. Beneficiaries receive 135,000 shillings every three months – 45,000 shillings per month – to help them care for themselves and

their children. The program seeks to build resilience among young mothers, reduce vulnerability, and promote long-term well-being for their families.

According to the MGLSD, the workshop was designed to strengthen local government capacity to plan, budget, and mainstream social protection within district priorities. It also provided an opportunity to review Uganda's current social protection landscape and discuss practical approaches for implementing inclusive, community-centered programs.

While opening the workshop, Kikuube Chief Administrative Officer Edward Musingye thanked the Gender Ministry for organizing what he described as a timely and essential training. He noted the growing number of unsupported

teenage mothers in the district and expressed hope that the enhanced skills gained by technical staff – particularly community development officers – would help improve the district's response to such cases.

Musingye emphasized the need for district departments to prioritize child protection in their upcoming planning and budgeting processes. He also encouraged families to make responsible decisions by planning for children they can adequately support.

UNICEF representative Stella Ogalu commended participants for attending

despite their busy schedules. She highlighted that following the closure of several USAID-funded programs, UNICEF and the government are now placing greater emphasis on strengthening national systems and district-level capacities to deliver essential services independently.

During the workshop, participants from Kikuube, Kyegegwa, and Isingiro districts were trained on key topics such as social protection frameworks, effective budgeting, and revenue mobilization strategies.



TRIBUTE TO MY BROTHER JULIUS KITONE

NEXT MEDIA

Rest In Peace
JULIUS KITONE

1991-2026



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JULIUS KITONE**

Our Colleague. Our Transformer.

Vigil: Sunday | 15th February 2026 | 4:00 PM

Venue: Omuka Restaurant, Naguru

May his Soul Rest in Peace.



With a heavy heart I celebrate the life of a man who was more than a friend, more than a colleague – he was my brother from another family. Julius Kitone. He perished in a nasty road accident on February 13, 2026 along the Mbarara-Lyantonde road.

I first met Julius in 2012 when I joined Makerere University for my Bachelor's degree. I was young, confused, and completely unfamiliar with the university. I had missed orientation and knew nothing about the campus or even where my lecture rooms were.

One evening, as I searched for a lecture room I had never seen before, I met a young man and asked him for directions. With humility and a warm smile, he said, "Follow me, I am also going for the same." That was Julius. He led me all the way to the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT), where we attended our first lecture in Introduction to Communication by Mr. Okurut Joseph.

After that lecture, we exchanged contacts. From that simple act of kindness, I gained a brother – Julius Kitone – who would walk with me through my entire campus life.

In 2014, when I stood for Guild Presidency at Makerere, Julius stood firmly by my side. He offered to drive me in a car belonging to our classmate Grace Namayega. Together with Baguma Frank Bagzy, our chief campaigner, and Mouris Opolot, we moved around campus with hope and determination. Julius was not just present; he was invested. He believed in me.

After campus, our journeys took different directions. Julius joined WBS TV, and when it closed business, he moved to Record TV. As for me, I began hustling as a boda boda rider in Kampala. Life had placed us on different paths, but our brotherhood never changed. We checked on each other constantly, sharing both struggles and victories.

In 2017, Julius asked me to teach him how to ride a motorcycle. I gladly did. We would meet at the slopes of Kikaaya Hill next to the Bahá'í Temple, where there was a small play field. That is where my brother learned to ride. We laughed, we fell, we tried again. Those were simple but priceless moments.

Later that year, when Julius got a job at NBS TV as the Bureau Chief of Luweero, he asked me to ride him to his new station. None of us had ever been to Luweero before. We set off on a journey to a place we did not know, carefully watching signposts along the way. When we reached Kasana-Luweero, we thought we hadn't yet arrived and continued to Katugo, only to be told we had bypassed our destination. We turned back, laughing at ourselves, and eventually found accommodation – a single room behind Don Fuel Station. That small room became home for my brother until he was recalled to the NBS Command Centre.

In 2018, when I joined Kiryandongo District Local Government in the Communication Section, tragedy struck with the Ggaaga bus accident. I was given my first assignment – to call a press conference. I called Kitone. Without hesitation, he mobilized journalists from different corners – print, broadcast, and online – and he himself came. That was Julius. When I was nervous and uncertain, he stood behind me as my mentor and my pillar.

Julius was generous beyond measure. Whenever I needed financial help, I would call him. If he didn't have money, he would borrow from his friends to send to me. He would call and say, "Comrade, kubira gundi omugambe akutereko sente. Maze kwogera naye." And I would do the same for him. That is what brotherhood meant to us – showing up, even when it was difficult.

In October 2025, he visited me at my ancestral home in Hoima. I introduced him to my brothers, sisters, and my mother. He became part of my family, as I had always been part of his. I promised to visit his ancestral home in Rakai.

Little did I know that would be the last time we would see each other.

Julius Kitone was not just a journalist. Not just a colleague. Not just a friend. He was my mentor. My supporter. My encourager. My brother from another family.

He walked with me when I was lost at campus.

He stood with me in leadership.

He supported me in struggle.

He celebrated with me in joy.

He corrected me when I was wrong.

He believed in me when I doubted myself.

Today, I do not just mourn a friend. I mourn a part of myself.

But I am grateful. Grateful that in 2012, on a simple evening at Makerere, I asked a stranger for directions – and found a brother for life.

Till we meet again, my brother Julius Kitone.

May your soul rest in eternal peace.

Dearly missed by your brother Emmanuel Murungi

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Officers of Bunyoro Sub-Region.*

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